



**Research Unit**  
**Press Information Bureau**  
**Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**  
**Government of India**



## G20 Series #22

### India's G20 Presidency

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG)

(Lucknow - February 13-15, 2023)

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)

March 03, 2023

*“Our experience in various fields can be of great help to the world. India's G-20 Presidency is coming as an important medium to take all our successful campaigns to the world.”*

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The 1<sup>st</sup> G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) meeting in India concluded on February 15, 2023, setting the tone for productive and meaningful deliberations for future DEWG meetings. The three-day meeting (Feb 13-15, 2023), which took place in Lucknow, showcased **India's digital transformation journey and brought together G20 members, key knowledge partners, and guest countries to discuss digital public infrastructure, cyber security, and digital skilling.**

The 3-day long Meeting, under India's G20 Presidency, was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath; Union Minister of Electronics & IT, Communications and Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw in the presence of Union Minister for Heavy Industries, Dr. Mahendra Nath

Pandey; Union Minister of State for Electronics & IT, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar; Secretary, MeitY, Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma; Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Durga Shankar Mishra and foreign delegates amongst others.



## **Day 1: February 13, 2023**

The [inauguration day showcased five workshops](#) covering various topics related to digital public infrastructure, cybersecurity solutions for MSMEs, sustainable development goals, and **geospatial technologies**. In addition, the meeting showcased digital initiatives from the state of Uttar Pradesh. The following five sessions were held:

### **Session 1: Digital Public Infrastructure: Sharing implementation experiences of Digital Identity in various countries**

During the session, the importance of Aadhaar as the foundation for building other aspects of digital public infrastructure was highlighted. The discussion also touched upon the need for a strong legal framework to ensure data protection, security, and privacy.

### **Session 2: ‘Sharing of Cyber Security Solutions for MSMEs’**

The Cyber Campus of France, the UK National Cyber Strategy, and Saudi Arabia’s vision of a centralized governance model for 2030 were discussed. The need for capacity building and the impact of cyber threats, current ecosystem trends, and the Global Cyber Alliance's toolkit for small businesses were also highlighted. During the session, three startups - Prophaze, Payatu, and Wi-Jungle - spoke about the cyber security threats faced by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and the solutions they offer. They shared their expertise and insights on the current cybersecurity landscape and the measures that MSMEs can take to protect themselves from potential threats.

### **Session 3: Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to boost the attainment of SDGs**

The delegates discussed the best practices for collaboration and sharing the outcomes of DPI initiatives. The emphasis was placed on the significance of technical interoperability as a priority for success and the benefits of an open resource stack to stimulate market growth and strengthen state capacities. The role of open source, open Application Programming Interface (APIs), and interoperable digital solutions in constructing a strong digital infrastructure was also deliberated upon.

### **Session 4: Showcasing Digital Initiatives of the State of Uttar Pradesh**

Discussions were held on several initiatives such as Mega Data Centre coming up in Greater Noida, Nivesh Mitra – Single Window System for Investors, Mine Mitra for Mining Sector, and DigiShakti among others. Mr. Arvind Kumar from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Akshay from YourStory, and Ms. Meenakshi from Infosys also discussed the partnership role of government, industry, and academia, and interactions with beneficiaries were held.

### **Session 5: Use of Geo-Spatial technologies for infrastructure and Product development in the digital economy**

Discussions were held on how GIS has been effectively used to gather real-time traffic data from users on the ground, analyse it, and then share daily and dynamic updates to offer a smooth and efficient service.

The first day of the DEWG meeting was a resounding success, with 36 esteemed speakers sharing their expertise and insights with over 700 registered attendees.

### **Day 2: February 14, 2023**

On the second day, the DEWG meeting began with a keynote address from India's G20 Sherpa, Shri Amitabh Kant, followed by insightful presentations and interventions from participants. In his keynote address, Shri Amitabh Kant spoke at length about the successes of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in terms of inclusion, delivery of social services, preventing monopolization in digital space, and security, privacy & governance. He shared the full suite of Indian DPIs, namely AADHAAR, MOSIP, CoWIN, DigiLocker, UMANG, DEPA, ONDC, ULIP, etc. With the effective implementation of DPI, India leapfrogged 40



**years of development and progress, in what was expected to be achieved in 47 years.** Any country can use the already developed DPIs and innovate on top of the same.

Opening remarks were also given by G20 Troika- Brazil and Indonesia on the transformative role of the Digital Economy in achieving sustainable development.

Subsequently, the delegates discussed two priority areas, namely **Digital Public Infrastructure and Cyber security** were discussed at length and expressed their willingness for further deliberations in subsequent working group meetings for greater shared understanding. Throughout the day, there were insightful presentations and interventions from G20 members, key knowledge partners, and guest countries.

### **Day 3: February 15, 2023**

The final and the third day of the meeting focused on the **priority of Digital Skilling. India proposed mechanisms for a digitally skilled future-ready workforce.** The member nations appreciated the **inclusion of digital skilling in the DEWG agenda and broadly supported India's proposed priority areas.** Summary discussions were also held on three key priority areas, namely **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Cyber Security in Digital Economy, and Digital Skilling.** The Co-Chair and Joint Secretary, MeitY, Shri Sushil Pal made the concluding remarks.

## **Raising Global Awareness about India's tourism potential**

While attending the side events & several workshops on Day 1 of DEWG, the G20 delegates also got an opportunity to **understand and experience India's digital innovation transforming lives.**

On Day 2, **delegates visited Bara Imambara**, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century architectural marvel known for its labyrinthine architecture.



On the last day, the meeting concluded with a **visit to Awadh Shilpgram**, a crafts bazaar bustling with local artisanry, set within an arched architectural marvel where G20 delegates got the opportunity to explore the local handicrafts.



The day concluded with **an awe-inspiring cultural performance that included "Yamunaashtakam", an ode to the river Yamuna**, reflecting the Indian environmental ethos.



**References:**

[The first day of the First Digital Economy Working Group meeting in Lucknow takes off](#)

[First Meeting of the Digital Economy Working Group \(DEWG\) continues its momentum on the second day](#)

[India successfully organizes the First Meeting of the G20 Digital Economy Working Group in Lucknow from 13 February to 15 February 2023](#)

**Twitter Links:**

[Glimpses from the ongoing exhibition](#)

[What G20 India has to offer to G20 on DPI](#)

[G20 India prioritizes building international cooperation for making cyberspace more secure for MSMEs](#)

[G20 India raising global awareness about India's tourism potential!](#)

[Glimpses of the splendid G20 India cultural performance in Lucknow that showcased the rich culture and traditions of Uttar Pradesh](#)

**AG/HP/KG**